Meeting Minutes

Douglas Elementary PTO

September 19, 2024 Douglas Elementary 8:30am

**Board Members: Birdie Holley, President – Ingrid Benson, Vice President – Chris Bowman, Treasurer – Raechel Hardin, Secretary – Michaelle Gust, DES Principal – Tom Sanger (Joelle Sanger Proxy)**

Meeting called to order by: Birdie Holley, President Attendance: 13

Board Members not present: Chris Bowman, Tom Sanger

Minutes: First meeting of the year.

**Officer Updates**

**President: Birdie Holley** (birdiewester@gmail.com)

* Katie Hoshor, Jessica Lombardi, and Alison Mixan will take charge of organizing and cleaning the PTO closet. The PTO has recommended adding shelves for better organization as well.
* **Vice President: Ingrid Benson** (ingbenson2@gmail.com)
* Walkathon update: At the time of this meeting, we have raised $13,500 from businesses and $28,776 from students. This year prizes will be handled differently; instead of interrupting classrooms, we will list them on the wall. Teachers will distribute prizes each Friday to students who have earned them. Currently, 75% of the kids have registered, and everyone who registers will receive a t-shirt. The silly string celebration is scheduled for next Friday, the 27th, and any child who raises $300 or more will be able to participate. Those who raise $400 or more will enjoy lunch with Mrs. Gust on October 1st. If the school reaches its fundraising goal, Mrs. Gust will get slimed! Additionally, we will hold intermittent raffles with prizes for the kids. The actual event will take place at Beery Field on October 18th instead of at the high school. Rockstar Recess will take place on September 30th at 2:00pm for the top grades who raised the most money, had the highest participation, and highest funds raised per child. These classes will also be able to enjoy ice cream from Dairy Dayz during this recess. During the meeting, questions arose about the fees collected from Fund Hub; however, we have not found another company with lower fees. Businesses that donate large amounts of money do not go through the website, so they avoid paying the high fees. Lastly, we would like to remind everyone that we are looking for someone to take the lead on next year’s Walkathon so if anyone is interested please email Birdie.

**Treasurer: Chris Bowman**  (cjames.bowman@gmail.com)

* The board convened over the summer to develop a proposed budget. We will finalize our budget for this year once we determine the earnings from the walkathon. Additionally, we are in the process of securing someone to conduct this year’s audit and are collaborating with Heidi Hunt, who helped establish our non-profit 501(c)(3).

**Meeting Information**

* **Principal Update (Michaelle Gust):** The ISD is currently under construction, and they provided us with thousands of cut out dyes for use for any event needed. These cutouts will be available in the conference room for anyone to use at any time. Please note that picture day is scheduled for Wednesday, September 25th. There will be no popcorn Friday on September 27th as we will be having the silly string celebration for the Walkathon. Additionally, there is a teacher in-service day on October 11, and there will be no school that day.
* **Teacher Update (Mrs. Hale/Mrs. Robb):** No update.
* **Eloquence Day Update (Casey Lokker/Meagan Lampen):** This is traditionally held at the Felt Mansion and is designed for 5th grade students. This event teaches students important skills such as manners, table conversation, and how to dress appropriately for formal occasions.
* **SCA Update (Whitney):** Whitney expressed a desire for the SCA to be present at all of the PTO meetings in the future, as they wish to support the school district in any way possible. She inquired about opportunities for the PTO to fund specific events, such as hosting authors and illustrators for an exhibition. Additionally, the SCA offers programming that includes classroom presentations and events, as well as field trips and assemblies at their location. They are also organizing a free family festival this fall, along with a silent disco. They would like students to participate in a reading month assembly featuring a visiting author, which will cost $800. We need to confirm that the PTO is willing to cover the cost of this event. Other SCA events include:
  + Fail-A-Bration – November 9th from 1:00-4:00 – Celebrate and connect over the imperfections that make us all human with interactive games, creative projects, karaoke, and uproarious laughter. Meet and find inspiration with exhibition artists and New York Times best-selling duo: Brad & Kristi Montague. To register for this event, visit the SCA website at [www.sc4a.org](http://www.sc4a.org).
  + Friday March 21st at the SCA there will be a free film for families and the PTO is encouraged to set up a table at this event.
* **Book Fair Update (Becky Starring):** Becky met with former lead Tracy regarding the book fair. The book fair will be held during parent teacher conferences. She will send out a message for volunteer opportunities closer to the event.
* **Parent/Teacher Conference Meals (John Tolley):** No update.
* **Holiday Workshop Update (Alison Mixan/Traci McFadden):** Alison and Traci are underway with gathering supplies and organizing the crafts for the Holiday Workshop. They stated that they did not think they would use the entire $1500 budget because there are a lot of craft supplies leftover from last year. They will send out a signup for volunteers when it gets closer to the event.
* **Bye-Bye Breakfast (Birdie):** This event went well. There was a catered breakfast from Uncommon Grounds. Birdie as well as some specials teachers answered any questions that parents had. New parents found this event helpful and would like to see it done in the future as well.
* **Welcome Night Update (Raechel):** This event went well and had a great turnout. Raechel will lead this event in the future.
* **Garden Update (Dana Pecina):** Dana met with the director of the Boys and Girls Club in hopes that they would take over the garden and use it in their programming. They decided that would be a great way to utilize the garden and they will also help with summer maintenance. Dana has a list of supplies that she is hoping can be donated for use in the garden such as mulch, bird seed, and door mats. Teachers will also be able to use the space in any capacity they like. Mrs. McKee’s class planted pumpkins last year and they are now growing! It was also suggested that a water feature be put in the garden so Bernadette the duck has access to water when she returns.
* **VR Headset Update:** Teachers want to use the VR headsets but are unsure how to use them so Michaelle is going to find a training they can utilize so the headsets will be beneficial to the classrooms.
* **Member Comments:** None

Meeting Adjourned At: 9:52am

Minutes Compiled By: Raechel Hardin, Secretary